

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2007

Attendance:

Members Present:

Amy Axel

Susan Austin

Niki Biggs

Bob Coen

Helene Dubay

Gil Kennedy

Laurie Kwiedorowicz

Andre Sconion

Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Debbie Braam

Angela Barnett

Councilman Guthrie

Kathy Halliday

Associate Members Present:

Kevin Racine

Andrea Wiley

- I. Vice Chairperson Gil Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the July 23, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Special Presentation: Harford County Executive David R. Craig received a briefing on the Maryland Youth Leadership Forum by Delegates Lauren Kennedy and Andre Sconion. Lauren shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Leadership Forum and Andre discussed his experiences at the forum and answered questions about forum activities, including a trip to Annapolis. The third delegate to the Youth Leadership Forum, Ashley Bolgiano, a student at Edgewood High School was unable to attend the meeting.





County Executive David R. Craig poses with Harford County Delegates to the Maryland Youth Leadership Forum, Lauren Kennedy and Andre Sconion. The Youth Leadership Forum was held July 31-August 1, 2007 at Bowie State University. Missing from the photograph is Ashley Bolgiano, the third delegate to the Leadership Forum from Harford County.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee:

1. Membership: Co-Chair Marc Weinstein provided the following report:
 - a) the committee continues to process the eleven applications for the three vacancies in the category of County citizens with a disability;
 - b) the committee expects to make its recommendations to the full Commission at the September 24, 2007 Commission meeting;
 - c) Marc also introduced applicants David Lawrence and Celie Hannauer, representing applicant Janice Warzynski.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Renters and Homeowners Program: The third ramp for a Bel Air resident has been built. More information to follow.
2. Housing Coalition: The coalition continues to meet to identify problems, target populations, and potential solutions. The next Housing Coalition meeting will be held on September 11, 2007 to review data from a

recently completed Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) study.

- C. Education Committee: Sharon Grzanka reported for Committee Chairperson, Debbie Braam, that:
1. The Expo for Transitioning Students will be held on March 8, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
 2. The Save the Date post card is being printed and will be sent to prospective exhibitors, distributed at the upcoming Faith-Based Resource Fair, etc. A sample of the post card was circulated.
 3. Next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday, August 29, 2007, at 1:00 p.m., at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee
1. Commission web page: Debbie Braam, Sharon Grzanka, and Department of Community Services' Marketing Coordinator, Becky Macek, met with Harford County webmasters to discuss changes to the Commission's web page. Proposed changes include an emphasis on committee work. Visitors to the webpage will also "meet" Commissioners and Associate Members via short (1-2 sentence) bios. Commissioners and Associate Members are asked to provide their bios to Sharon Grzanka by email or fax by September 17, 2007. More information to follow.
 2. Transportation Steering Committee: Kevin Racine reported on regional transit issues and announced the following upcoming trainings: "It's All About Attitude", sponsored by the Transportation Association of Maryland, Wednesday, August 29, 2007, at the HEAT Center in Aberdeen and "Breaking Down Barriers, the 3rd Annual Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary's Conference on Accessible Transportation, Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the Johns Hopkins University. The conference is free and lunch is provided.
 3. Harford County Town Hall Meeting: Amy Axel reported that the event is planned for Monday, December 4, 2007, 6:00-8:30 p.m. The theme is "Growing in Wellness ~

Belonging in the Community". The event will focus on cross-disability issues and will rely on subject matter experts and the experiences of persons with disabilities. The next planning committee is Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

E. Employment Committee:

1. Annual Awards Luncheon: Co-chair Niki Biggs reported that:
 - a) The Annual Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007, at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Club.
 - b) Nomination forms are available on-line at www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities and are due on Wednesday, September 12, 2007.
 - c) Secretary Cathy Raggio has accepted the committee's invitation to be the keynote speaker at the luncheon.
2. An information session on the Employed Individuals with Disabilities (EID) Program will be held at the office of Service Coordination, Inc. on September 11, 2007. The committee is placing special emphasis on the EID because enrollment in the program statewide has been low.

V. Disabilities Coordinator Report: The Department of Community Services' Annual Faith-Based Resource Fair will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2007, from noon until 5:00 p.m. at the Richlin Ballroom.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Proposed Reception for Secretary Raggio of the Maryland Department of Disabilities. Report deferred until the September 24, 2007 meeting.
- B. 2007/2008 Strategic Plan Activities: Commissioners and Associate Members are needed to assist with the following activities:
 1. Letters to the Editor of the Aegis on disability-related topics;

2. The Commission's Annual Public Policy Statement
3. Sharon will circulate an electronic sign up sheet. Members interested in working on the Public Policy Statement may contact Laurie Kwiedorowicz.

VII. New Business: There was none.

VIII. Public Comment and Announcements:

- A. Kevin Racine announced that he has been nominated as one of "Harford's Most Beautiful People".
- B. Amy Axel announced a car show to benefit Alliance, Inc., Sunday, September 9, 2007 at Village Volvo in Bel Air. The show will be judged, open to all vehicles and free to spectators with door prizes, etc.
- C. Niki Biggs announced an Abilities Network fundraiser, "Time Out for Monday Night Football, Monday, November 12, 2007, 8:00-11:00 p.m. at the ESPN Zone, 601 East Pratt Street, in Baltimore. The event will feature appearances by Baltimore Raven player, open bar, food buffet, silent auction, etc. For more information call 410-828-7700.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.